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"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH."

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ARABIC TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE.

EXTRACTS OF A LETTER FROM A MISSIONARY IN SYRIA.

ABIEH, August 18, 1865.

And now, as I have my pen in hand, perhaps a few words in regard to the history of Bible distribution in the Arab field, may not be amiss.

Several translations into Arabic have been made from time to time, but none, as far as I can determine, at a date earlier than the eighth or ninth century. The first complete translation seems to have been made in Spain, soon after the Moors took possession of that country. Its existence is only now a matter of history, as not a copy of it, as far as I know, is to be found in any library of the East or the West. The translations that were used in the various churches of Syria during the middle ages, and subsequently, were made in part from the Hebrew, and in part from the Greek Septuagint; and portions, too, were from the Syriac and the Coptic.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, a Maronite bishop of Damascus obtained permission of the Pope to prepare a version (not a translation) which should be uniform in its character, and supersede the various and incongruous versions then in use in the churches. This new edition was conformed to the Latin Vulgate, and was published by the Propaganda in Rome in the year 1671, with the apocryphal books. It is in three large folio volumes, the Latin being printed with the Arabic in parallel columns. Of course this edition was never intended for general circulation.

This version of the Maronite bishop, *verbatim et literatim*, but without the Latin and the Apocrypha, was adopted in the year 1818 by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and from that time to the present has been the only version systematically circulated by the American and other missions throughout Syria and Egypt.

It is worthy of note that the British and Foreign Bible Society was induced to adopt this version at the suggestion of Mr. John Barker, English consul at Aleppo, a gentleman of great benevolence of

character, and much interested in all efforts to promote the enlightenment of the people, but who, singularly enough, gave little personal attention to the claims of the Gospel, and died at last in the communion of the Greek Church. Mr. Barker came to Aleppo in 1799. In a letter dated Sept. 1, 1817, to the Bible Society, he speaks of a "large parcel of Arabic Testaments having been formerly sent to this place (Aleppo). They were printed in London in 1725 and 1727, and probably soon after brought to Aleppo by one Sherman, but whether an ecclesiastic or merchant I cannot learn." He then mentions that as these Testaments were suspected of having been vitiated to favour Protestant sentiments, they were mostly burned. It is in this same letter that he suggests the adoption of the Propaganda edition, which, he adds, has "become so scarce that there are not probably fifty copies in all Arabia." "If the society should resolve to make another impression of the Arabic Bible, for the benefit of the numerous poor Christians in the south of Turkey, the Latin version ought to be omitted; but the greatest care should be taken that the Arabic correspond exactly with the Roman edition, for the slightest deviation from that edition would induce its rejection, unless indeed the Pope's approbation could be affixed to each book."

Other and more recent translations, as that of Henry Martyn and Fares Shidiak, as well as reprints of more ancient versions, have had a very limited circulation. For the last forty-five years the standard has been the edition of the Propaganda; and though a very faulty representative of the original Scriptures as a whole, yet it has accomplished a most important work. It has taught the great doctrines of revealed religion with so much of distinctness as to lead a goodly company into the way of truth and life. We take our leave of it without regret, for its place is to be supplied by one of the best translations known in any language, and yet with such feelings of reverence and affection as are due to a loving friend who, having

accomplished his work, retires in old age to the honourable privacy of domestic life.

It is proper here to make mention of an incidental result of the new translation which has been secured at the expense of your Society. Before Dr. Smith put his hand to the work itself, he felt the need of preparing type of a different style and character to any that had been previously used in the printing of Arabic books. He spent much time in this preparatory work, consulting with great care and discrimination the opinions and taste of the best Arabic scholars. In January, 1837, on my arrival at Smyrna, as the Agent of your Society, I found him there, diligently employed with Mr. Hallock, the printer of the Mission of the American Board, in making patterns of moulds and matrices. He afterwards perfected the work in Germany. The result is, a most beautiful and acceptable style of type. Dr. Smith would not probably have attempted a change in Arabic typology,* had he not already determined to commence a new translation of the Bible. The change bids fair to be complete. In Syria, at least, our style of printing is decidedly the most popular. The Arabic newspaper in Beirut is now printed in types of the new model, the types having been got through the Mission. Books from other presses have also been issued in the same style.

Now for a fact in the history of Bible influence on Lebanon, and I have done. Some years ago I gave Dr. Brigham an account of a young man who, in one of the civil wars in Syria, was out on a marauding expedition, and took for his share of the plunder in an enemy's house a Bible, which somehow or other happened to be there; and on reading it he became enlightened, and in the end found the way of life and peace, and was afterwards the means of bringing many of his neighbours to a knowledge of the truth. A church is very soon to be organized in his native village (one of the highest on the range of Lebanon), and that young man is to be ordained its pastor. God chooses his own instruments, and to Him be all the glory.

Yours truly, S. H. CALHOUN.

* NOTE BY MR. HALLOCK.—Mr. Calhoun wrote this under a misapprehension, which does injustice to Dr. Smith, as well as the Arabic calligraphy. Dr. Smith was controlled by my suggestions in every particular, in drawing the models for my use, and certainly made not the most minute change in the forms of the letters. He was indefatigable in his efforts to learn the true, accurate forms of the Arabic letters; and it was not until after several months of labour in the comparison of various manuscripts, that he very unexpectedly, and with a thrill of satisfaction which I shall never forget, discovered the copies drawn with a most infinite care and perfectly measured in every direction, which the great Turkish writing masters use in instructing others to write. The letters in these pattern sheets, of which Dr. Smith found a large number (some scores), were usually of the size of half to three quarters of an inch, say as large as the thumb nail, drawn with surpassing accuracy, so as to bear measurement under a magnifier of moderate power.

The science or art of handwriting among the semi-barbarous Turks and Persians is carried to a most surprising extent, both in the effort expended and the success which follows. It is my opinion that in the whole wide range of labour and beauty and taste practised in the fine arts, there is not one branch which equals the exquisite symmetry and perfection of the Turkish and Persian manuscript.

Some idea of the labour expended on this art and the high estimation in which it is held, may be gained from the fact that a long life is cheerfully spent on one volume. I saw one exceedingly beautiful volume, not larger than one-fourth of the New Testament, which occupied seventy years in copying.

The complete success secured by the united efforts of Dr. Smith and myself, in this imitation of the Arabic type, is well illustrated in the fact that an old experienced Turkish writing master, on seeing the first few lines which were printed from the new type, remarked that the man who wrote that had need only to spend "a few years" under his instruction, to make him a master penman.

H. H.

The ARABIC SCRIPTURES.—A GIFT from MARASH, and a QUICK RETURN from AMERICA.;

In the Bible Society Record for October, we printed the following extract from a letter of our Agent, Rev. Isaac G. Bliss, Constantinople, with reference to a contribution raised at Sidon, in Syria, by the Christians of that mission, for the Arabic Scriptures:

"You will notice that I report \$73 70, a difference of fifty-eight cents. This fifty-eight cents was sent me from Marash, by a poor woman (one of the poorest of the poor, but warmhearted Christians found there). She sold one of the only two copper cooking dishes she had, and when remonstrated with for doing so, replied that she was glad to deny herself for *Christ*, and to give His Word to others, who had it not. This humble fifty-eight cents will be a power in helping on the great work, which the Master will not forget to use."

This statement was soon copied into one of our city religious newspapers. The ensuing communication shows how quickly the poor Christian woman's great liberality has borne its precious fruit on this side of the Atlantic. Our good brother Bliss only uttered the language of faith when he wrote in his closing sentence—that "*these humble fifty-eight cents will be a power in helping on the great work, which the Master will not forget to use.*"

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER ENCLOSING TWENTY DOLLARS FOR THE ARABIC SCRIPTURES—A THANK-OFFERING.

"Our only child was taken ill and seemed about to die. Her sinful father was brought to his knees. God heard *even him*; spared the child, and we hope and pray will keep the father in the way of life.

"Just at this time we read, in the *Christian Intelligencer*, of a poor woman who 'sold one of the only two copper cooking dishes' she had, in order that she might contribute something to aid in giving the Word of Life to others. We thank God that this deed of that far-off woman touched our hearts, and made us feel how much we owe to God for His infinite love, and the innumerable *un-noticed* mercies shown unto us.

"In the name of our little Elsie we send you a twenty dollar bill, as a thank-offering to God, and as a token that we recognise His loving kindness and tender mercies.

"In our hearts we believe we owe the making of this gift to the example of that poor woman, and we therefore desire that this money may be applied to the same purpose for which she gave hers, namely: *to aid in electrotyping the Arabic Scriptures.*"

اٰفِ الْبَدِءِ خَلَقَ اللّٰهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ.

The first verse of the 1st chapter of Genesis in Arabic from the new type made at the Bible House, for the new version of Rev. Dr. Van Dyck. The complicated nature of the Arabic type will slightly appear from this specimen. The letter L, for instance, occurs in this verse six times, and yet no two are precisely alike.

Foreign Department.

AFRICA.—UMTVALUMI.—We learn by letter from the Rev. H. A. Wilder that good progress is made in printing the Zulu Testament, for which funds were granted by the American Bible Society. It had already reached the book of Romans; and it was expected that the entire Testament would be finished in a few months. Great care has been taken to make the version according to the rules of this Society, accurately translated from the original Greek, and, like the English version, catholic and unsectarian.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION.—By a letter from Mr. Milne, extracts from which may be found in another column, we learn the continued success of the Bible work under his supervision. He and the colporteur, Schmidt, are greatly favoured with access to the people and a ready distribution of the Scriptures. Mr. Milne still calls for more books, finding a ready outlet for all we send him.

MEXICO.—Mr. Hickey continues to prosecute his work with success, but not without great exposure and danger. In the unsettled condition of the country, while two parties are contending for power, the vicious and unprincipled take the opportunity to commit depredations and outrages, so that neither life nor property is safe. By a letter recently received from Mr. Matthew W. Starr, of Monterey, we learn the danger through which Mr. Hickey has recently passed, but from which he was providentially delivered. We must still prosecute our work in this distracted country, which, amid all its convulsions, is still open to the reception of the Holy Scriptures.

AFRICA—ALGIERS.—Information is received of the arrival of two cases of books containing 100 Spanish Bibles, 300 Testaments, and 500 portions, granted on request of Pastor F. de P. Ruet, who promises a faithful account of the distribution of them.

MEXICO.

LETTER FROM THE AGENT OF THE A. B. SOCIETY.
MONTEREY, MEXICO, Sept 3, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER:—I have just returned from perhaps the most interesting trip I ever made. My trips are pretty much like the sermons heard by a good old elder in a Presbyterian church: the last was always the best. Allow me to trouble you with a very brief account of it.

On the 7th of August I started; reached Saltillo second day; stopped a few days and sold nineteen Bibles and fifteen Testaments; moved on for Parras; second day came to a ranche, which apparently poverty might claim as its own. It seemed scarcely worth while to attempt to sell, but of course I went to try. Met an old man, to whom I sold a Testament. A few came in to see, and I sold a Bible. I went on, and met a man who asked the price; I told him eight reals. Here allow me to remark, in any small transaction the Mexicans never mention dollar; they speak of reals (your shilling—thus, seven reals, fifteen reals, twenty reals, etc.) Somehow or other he mistook me, and thought I said eight dollars. He offered me seven, as I thought, reals, but he meant dollars. I of course refused the supposed seven reals, telling him, as I do all others under similar circumstances,

that I would not vary the one thousandth part of a cent. So we parted; but he called after me, and sent his wife for the money, which having received he began to count me—eight dollars for the Bible. I asked what was all the money for; he said, "To pay for the book." "My dear sir," said I, "I want but one dollar;" (he was paying me in dollar pieces) "and if you offered me your hat full I would take no more. My price is fixed; to young and old, rich and poor, I sell at the same uniform rate." You have heard of natives being astonished, but if you wanted to see the thing in perfection you should have been there. The thing was so *un-Mexican* and so *new*, they could hardly believe the evidence of their senses.

My character was then established, and my fame carried, not to the four winds of heaven but to the thirty-two points of the compass; and if there were ninety-six points more, it would be borne there also. My new friend joined me then as volunteer colporteur. I succeeded in selling twelve Bibles and seven Testaments.

There happened to be here a schoolmaster; I need not prefix "poor," for everybody knows, who has been in Mexico, how wretchedly schoolteachers are paid. Calling at his jacal (cabin) and inquiring for the learned gentleman, I found he was working in the cornfield. Knowing the influence teachers have here, I always try to win them to my side; and so I complimented the learned gentleman's wife on the importance and dignity of her husband's office, vast benefits to society, etc., and concluded by respectfully requesting the acceptance of a Bible as my humble tribute of respect, etc. At my return I called at the ranche, and as I arrived very late at night I had an opportunity of being up early in the morning, and of course did myself the honour of waiting on the professor, who, with many others, were still enjoying life, Mexican fashion. He soon arose and thanked me most sincerely for the Bible, pressed me to take some peaches, and finally sent me a present of a rooster, which I also presented to a friend in Saltillo. Before leaving the teacher I spoke to him about reading the Scriptures for those who could not read, etc., and he promised he would do so. Divine Providence graciously permitting, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing him next week, as I have to return to Parras directly.

After I left the ranche I met a man on a donkey. I offered a Bible for sale, which he immediately bought, and said he heard that there was a man selling books very cheap at the ranche, and he came to buy one; and added, "If you come to my ranche my son may buy some. It is a little out of the way, but you can go so and so." So off I set to the ranche, the twin sister of the one I left, and there sold eleven Bibles and twelve Testaments; and on leaving, one of the rancheros, who acted as spokesman, thanked me for my courtesy and kindness, and polite attention, and the great benefits bestowed upon the citizens by my visit. Of course I acknowledged the unanimous, though informal, vote of thanks, turned down a deep defile in a valley admirably suited to strike off a heifer's neck in old time, and had to drive at a Jehu rate to pass a deep gorge before an impending shower would cut off my retreat, and moved on to a hacienda belonging to one of the brothers Sanchez. Here was a chapel; and for prudential reasons I did not of-

fer a book for sale, deferring to do so till some future but not distant day. I have not time for explanation in a letter.

Passed on, and in consequence of heavy rains the roads were so seamed and gullied I made but about four miles in nearly a whole day. A train of wagons was ahead, and had the men road making. However, by acting on the poet's suggestion,

"The best of the way to lengthen the day,
Is to steal a few hours from the night,"

I succeeded in selling five Bibles. Here a very intelligent lady asked, "Is not this the prohibited Bible?" I answered, "Yes, madam, this is the very book." And then by reading several portions I proceeded to show that it ought to be prohibited, and that those who forbid its perusal were perfectly right, as it is diametrically opposed to their views, etc. She bought two Bibles. A few days afterwards I met the same lady in a house in Parras, and she requested a Bible to show a friend whom she wished to buy it, but she did not succeed. I sold it afterwards.

When in Parras I called at the house of a very respectable gentleman who happened to be just then absent. I got into conversation with three ladies of the family, and as I was making some remarks on Popery, the Bible, etc., the owner came in and expressed his assent to what I said, and bought a Bible. I had just left, when he came out after me, and said another Bible was wanted; for just as I left his brother entered, and sent after me. When I handed him the book he says, "Is not this the Protestant Bible?" I remarked, "The Bible is like the sun; it belongs exclusively to no nation nor people; it is for all." "Oh," he says, "I want the Protestant Bible;" and of course he paid for it. I went into another place where a gentleman asked, when I offered a Testament for sale (the Bibles were all sold, numbering seventy-four), "Is not this the American Testament?" "Yes, sir." "Well," he says, "I want the American Testament, I don't want the Popish one;" and so he bought it, and recommended it to a lady present, who also bought. They were all Mexicans.

I was reading in a house when a few more people came in, and for the new comers I read the Prodigal Son. A poor woman present expressed a wish for the book. I told her I was going next morning to leave, and told her where I was stopping. About sunrise she was there for the Testament, and asked me to read a little. She said, "Did it contain the story of the Prodigal?" I showed her where it was, marked the place, and parted. The above are only some of the incidents of the trip.

Ever in the gospel, most truly,

JAMES HICKEY.

MR. HICKEY IN MEXICO.

We have received an interesting letter from Mr. Matthew W. Starr, Jr., of Monterey, in regard to the labours of the Agent of this Society in Mexico. Although it was not written for publication, we cannot refrain from making some extracts from it for the benefit of our readers. After some expressions of warm commendation of Mr. Hickey, he proceeds as follows:

He is doing a work in connexion with your

noble and generous Society which, with the blessing of God, will entirely revolutionize this people. The Bible is finding its way into many families, and cannot fail to do great good. Mrs. H. is selling quite as many Bibles as Mr. H., as no doubt you are advised in Mr. H.'s reports. A few days since your Agent returned from a tour to San Luis Potosi. On his return home, some thirty leagues beyond Saltillo, the train he was travelling with for security (the owner being a particular friend of his, and of our Cause) was attacked by a band of armed men, and the owner of said train was shot dead right before the eyes of Mr. H., and one of the drivers was shot through the breast, but it is thought will recover. Immediately after the shooting of the owner of the train, a rush was made for Mr. Hickey's wagon; the first salutation, with a rifle cocked, pointed, and close to Mr. H.'s head, "Your arms and your money." Mr. Hickey assured them he had no arms but a penknife. Whereupon the man lowered his rifle; immediately after, however, many others rode up, and with pointed pistols made the same demands, but received nothing, as Mr. H. had, in the commencement of the trouble, thrown most of his money into an old sack tied under his wagon, where was his camp and cooking utensils, wood, etc. Mr. H. had much trouble in obtaining the unfortunate man's body to take to his family and friends residing in Saltillo. The robbers said it should not be taken, but Mr. H. prevailed and succeeded, and sent the body, together with the wounded man, on to Saltillo, he, Mr. H., remaining with the train until it reached Saltillo. The man who was killed had some twenty-two persons dependent upon him for support; being a good and very benevolent man, they feel his loss much every way. If a small fund could be placed at Mr. H.'s disposal for assisting cases like this and the mother's family, whose son was killed while travelling with your Agent something over a year since, it would be indeed a true charity. Much is given here by a few, considering what they have to do with. Your Agent would, and often does go half fed, in order to assist the poor and needy; this is his worst fault, if it be such. I never saw such a man; he came home on this last trip I speak of, eating bread fourteen days old, and little else, yet happy, yea, joyful in his work. Two days ago he started for Saltillo again, and perhaps Parras, which he visited some few weeks since, agreeing to return and bring Bibles for those he could not supply in his former visit. There is a great call for the Word in all that region, as no doubt you are made aware ere this by your Agent. I find I am writing much without answering the questions propounded in yours of the 2d September before me. In the first place, you say you would like to know my views as to the prospects of the successful prosecution of our work, and the expediency of attempting to enlarge it. I would say, enlarge so far as is possible with the means and men at your command. See how the way is opening even in these troublous times. "The entrance of thy Word giveth light," says the psalmist. Oh, how true! we see it exemplified all around us. I am satisfied your greatest trouble will be in finding the right kind of men; few are fitted, and few there are willing to be fitted for this work to prosecute it with success. I cannot but think when the call is urgent-

ly made, many will rise up and say, "Here am I; send me." There are few here at present proper persons for colporteurs. There will be some by and by, when more fully instructed and proved, who may make good and true labourers. Mr. W—— has quite a number who meet with him twice each week in the evening for instruction, prayer, and counsel.

Another point: You ask could not more books be distributed and sold by authorizing Mr. Hickey to place some books in the hands of responsible persons for sale or distribution. This he has been doing for some time back, holding himself responsible for all books thus left. All these matters have been talked over between us many times, your Agent is so anxious to do all the good he possibly can.

SOUTH AMERICA.

LETTER FROM MR. MILNE.

BUENOS AYRES, Sept. 26, 1865.

DEAR SIR:—Since my last I have visited Nuevo Palmira, called also Iliguritas, and Carmelo, which also has another name, "Las Vacas." Although the former are the proper names of these places, the latter are those most commonly found on maps. Nuevo Palmira is a new, and as yet but a small, village on the margin of the river Uruguay. I should suppose the inhabitants to number about 1,500, mostly poor, with a large proportion who cannot read, as you may infer when I tell you there is not a school for boys in the whole village. The people in general are very indifferent about spiritual things. A few expressed great joy in being able to purchase the Scriptures, but only a few. A little outside of the town I met with some of my own countrymen, who bought, as they said, to encourage the good work. They were much astonished when I told them of my protection from the president of the republic, and the number of my sales, which for the eight days I had been in the place were seventy copies, including some portions. The priest of Nuevo Palmira is very generally reported as a godless man. So far as I know, he took no notice of the Bible circulation. I met him on one or two occasions, but he appeared to shun me, so I did not seek an interview. The Sunday I passed in Nueva Palmira I saw him joking with the servants of the hotel in the cook-house. I merely mention this to give you some idea of our South American priests in country parishes; and from this you may form some idea of the spiritual condition of the people, and the need they have of the Lamp of Life.

From Nuevo Palmira I went by coach to Carmelo, five leagues to the south. Here I found some grains of the precious seed had been sown some years ago by a Miss Peabody. I believe she was supplied by Rev. W. Goodfellow. The first house I called at was that of the doctor, an Italian. He had the Bible in three different languages, and said he valued it much. The next place I called at, the lady told me she had a New Testament, but would buy the Psalms. From my arrival at mid-day till night I sold ten books. Carmelo being but a small place, did not occupy me very long, but it was work full of encouragement. Many bought, apparently knowing, less or more, what they were buying.

The priest here was very much annoyed at the ready sale I met with; and the first Sunday after

my arrival in the place, he told the people at the close of the second mass that the Protestants, quite unprovoked, had declared war against them, and were selling their books among the Catholics at very low prices. For the present he would give the people to know, that if they had bought any of these books and chose to retain or handle them, they had taken upon their consciences a burden which he would leave themselves to answer for. His reasons for prohibiting these books he said he would give the following Sunday. The following Tuesday I paid him a visit and took with me a New Testament, which I offered him as a present, that he might see that there is nothing bad in the book as he supposed—nothing that could do any soul any harm. At first he was much excited, and turned over the leaves again and again. He then handed it to me again, saying it was much corrupted. I said I thought not, but we could see. He objected, saying he had not time to read all that book. I told him to look at the places he suspected. But to end discussion he told me it had not notes, and that all Bibles without notes are prohibited by the church; and to show me the necessity of notes, he told me that the Old Testament commands us to hate our enemy, but the New commands us to love him. I asked him where he found this commandment in the Old Testament, and added that the New Testament is the best commentary of the Old. I again offered him the New Testament I took with me, but he declined, saying he had one of these—showing me the Spanish Bible of the American Bible Society, which he had been using for many years, as more convenient than his large commentary.

Thus he showed me in the end that he did not really believe the text was corrupted, as he had said. On leaving he was more friendly, and offered me a cigar.

I am, reverend and dear sir, yours faithfully,

A. M. MILNE.

BRAZIL.

The following extracts of a letter from Rev. A. L. Blackford, dated São Paulo, Sept. 1, 1865, give a more encouraging view of the work in Brazil than we had begun to entertain. The prosecution of it is expensive, but while God grants success to the distribution of his Word, and it is the acknowledged agent of the conversion of souls, it surely ought to be carried on. We believe our friends will cordially concur in this view. Speaking of the labours of Señor Bastos, the former colporteur, who has now resigned, Mr. Blackford says:

From January to the beginning of March, a portion of his time was spent in this city, and the remainder in a journey to Soracaba and other points, to the western part of this province. On March 7th he set out on the land route from this to Rio de Janeiro, whither he went and returned by the 5th of May. In this journey he visited eleven or more cities and towns, and canvassed them with marked success, until his supply of books was exhausted. Only in one place was any active opposition made to his work. There he was arrested by the police authorities, fined twenty dollars, and given twenty-four hours to leave the place. He was told four months afterwards, by a man he met from there

that the people generally disapproved of the conduct of the authorities. In general he was kindly received, and in many instances license to sell was gratuitously granted. Ninety* of the ninety-four Bibles, and thirty-five of the thirty-nine New Testaments, were sold by the colporteur in four months. I suppose the fine imposed might have been recovered, and the authorities rebuked, had an effort been made for that purpose. But it would have cost more than the sum involved; and I deemed it better to suffer the wrong than to excite hatreds by attempting to right it.

In place of the colporteur resigned, I employed Mr. Geo. Chamberlain, whom, you will remember, we hoped more than a year ago to see made your Agent here. His qualifications for the work I do not think are exceeded by those of any other.

There are many towns and villages where no Bible agent has ever yet penetrated. As some of these are distant and difficult of access, I wish it understood that the expense will in all probability be heavy in proportion to the result in sales. It seems to me, however, this is a case in which we must walk and work by faith and not by sight. You will not doubt more than myself that it is the purpose of God the work should be done, and the duty of his church to do it, cost what it may. The part your Society is to continue to take in this particular part of the church's great work, it rests with its members to decide. I should be sorry to see you withdraw your hand, and shall rejoice to render you always whatever aid I can.

I have found it difficult to give you interesting items in evidence of the success of your work under my charge. Our former colporteur, though faithful, and in many respects unusually adapted for his work, was very illiterate, and it was hard to get in intelligible form more than the dry details of his operations.

A few instances have come under my own observation here: Five persons, who are now members of our church, were first brought to a knowledge of the truth by your colporteur. Two of these were clerks, and wholly prevented from attending the preaching of the Word, until they left their employment for the Word's sake. The reading of the Bible, I think, was the only means of their true conversion. Another case of touching interest is that of a poor black woman, who cannot read, and who yet holds fast her love of the Bible against the most relentless opposition. I will give you her own story: Her next-door neighbour said to her one day that he had a very interesting book, and that if she would come to his house he would read to her. She went often, and heard with great interest. The book was a Bible he had bought from a colporteur who was here three years ago, but he never told her the name of it. He finally left, or at least ceased to read to her. She kept pondering on what she had heard, and longing for some one to read to her again. It occurred to her one day, as she sat at her work, to ask God to send some one to read to her again; which she did. Near by is a grocery store, kept by a man who with his wife and stepdaughter are members of our church, and of the number already alluded to. Going one day to buy something, the young woman who was in attendance came to the counter with an open book in her hands. She asked what book it was, and if she would not read

her something from it. Having heard a few sentences, she exclaimed, "Those are the very things Mr. — used to read me from his book. I want to hear more. Won't you continue to read to me?" For some time she attended the prayer-meetings in the house of the colporteur. Her mother, who is a great devotee, consulted a priest about it, who threatened her with all the pains of hell for herself and daughter both, if she did not make her quit hearing the Bible read. The mother was terrified and furious, and sought, by all the arts of persuasion and force of threats and parental authority, to have her quit attending the meetings; but without effect. Her husband, who at first took no account of the matter, was at length induced by the mother to forbid her further attendance. As he is an ignorant and violent man, she must yield or enter on a doubtful contest. She goes daily, however, when he is off at work, to the house of her neighbour, to attend their family worship and hear the Gospel read. The firmness and patience with which she adheres to the truth, in spite of all this opposition, can only be the work of the Holy Spirit.

In a backwoods district, 170 miles from here, there is an extensive and decided movement in favour of the truth. It is in considerable part the result of the reading of the Scriptures, and other books. From thence books have been sent to a point in a neighbouring province, one hundred and sixty miles distant, and there also they are doing their work.

Mr. Chamberlain's first journey was made to the town of Bragança, fifty to sixty miles north of this, and some intermediate points. In an absence of twelve days he sold twenty-four Bibles and thirty New Testaments, and received an order for three and a half dozen more Bibles. One priest told him plainly he would order his parishioners to burn the Bibles. Another, after comparing various parts with his Vulgate, counselled a friend to buy a New Testament. In Bragança he was on one occasion vigorously beset by several lawyers, and soon it was rumoured all over the town that the *young man* "had confounded the doctors." In this same town he met a man, who having heard of the Bible in this city, had sought and obtained one from a believer here, and was diligently occupied in studying it. He said he was fully convinced of the errors of Romanism. I doubt not there are many such cases, where the Word is even now gladly received, and will prove the power of God to salvation. In most cases, perhaps, it will as yet receive but little attention. But I am persuaded the day is not far off when there will be such a waking up and stir among this people, as will render it of the greatest importance to have the Bible widely scattered abroad. I doubt not God is already making his Word fruitful, though we may never see the results till the great day of accounts.

Several years ago Mr. Fletcher made a short visit to this province, distributing Bibles, etc. An American physician, who resides in an interior town, told me that on one occasion he had penetrated into one of the remotest settlements, and stopping in a little village, a man came up and asked if he were an American. He replied that he was. "Do you know Padre (priest) Fletcher?" he asked. "Yes." "Well, Padre Fletcher is the best man I ever saw. I met him on the road, and he gave me two Bibles and some tracts, etc. I took

them home with me, away there in the sertao, and I would not part with them for anything."

Can we doubt that God will send his Spirit where we send his Word?

CHINESE VERSIONS.

The correct rendering of the Holy Scriptures into the language of China is a subject of great importance, which has excited and does still excite no little interest in the Christian mind. The following letter from the Rev. Dr. Happer, of the Presbyterian Board, throws great light on this topic, and is well worth serious consideration. The opinion expressed by him, that the time for producing a standard permanent version of the Chinese Bible has not yet arrived seems very reasonable; but, in the meantime, it is gratifying to be assured from such a source that the versions already made are useful and answer a valuable purpose, with much less of drawback than is often supposed:

CANTON, CHINA, Aug. 25th, 1865.

RESPECTED AND DEAR BROTHER:—I saw it stated in the report of one of your monthly meetings as published in the New York Observer, that you had received a letter from Dr. Maclay, of Fuhchau, in which he informed you that some steps had been taken towards a revision of the Chinese version of the sacred Scriptures. It may be interesting to you to receive some further information in reference to that matter. Dr. Maclay and Mr. O. Gibson, of Fuhchau, sent out a circular to all the missions, proposing that *all* the missionaries in China, *i. e.* English, American, and German, unite in making a version which should be used by all. So far as I know, there is not a single mission that has signified its approval of such an effort. I *know* that no one, either American, English, or German, at Canton, favours it. This unwillingness to attempt such a work does not exist because the great body of missionaries do not regret this division of sentiment, which leads to the use of three or more different versions of the sacred Scriptures; but it is because they consider the attainment of such a result at this time impracticable. But as the subject has been brought before you, it may be useful to you to know some general facts in reference to the whole subject.

There are three versions in general use, besides a large number of other versions, or versions of certain parts, which are used in particular places. The three versions are those of the London Missionary Society, made by Dr. Medhurst, Messrs. Stonach and Milne, aided by others; the version of Drs. Bridgman and Culbertson; and the version of the New Testament which was made by Rev. Mr. Goddard, of Ningpo, and which is used by nearly if not all the Baptist missionaries. The version, as made by Drs. Medhurst and Gutzlaff, is used to some limited extent. There then have been made translations from some one or other of these above-mentioned versions, which are all in the classical style, into the local colloquial of the several places where missionaries are located, as at Canton, Amoy, Fuhchau, Ningpo, and Shanghai. These versions are printed in the Chinese character. Then there are some places where these versions into the local colloquial are printed with the Roman letters. This has been most done at Ningpo, where I think

the whole of the New Testament has been so printed, or is now in type, and where all the missionaries, both English and American, use the same version which has been jointly prepared by them (except the Baptist). Then lastly is the version now in course of preparation at Peking by Dr. Martin, Mr. Elkins, and others, into the Mandarin colloquial. I notice that Dr. Martin has stated that all the people of China, north of the Yangtsz river, speak alike, and that the version which they are now preparing in the Mandarin colloquial (as distinct from the Mandarin classical or book style) will meet the wants of the vast mass of people resident in the various provinces of Shantung, Chihli, Kenan, Shansi, Shensi, Iz-chuen Romsuh, which are north of that river. In this surmise I think Dr. Martin is mistaken. Dr. Morrison studied Mandarin at Canton, and he supposed he was learning a language which was spoken throughout the empire. I now know he was mistaken. There is a northern and southern Mandarin dialect. It was formerly supposed that the language of Amoy, for which Dr. Medhurst prepared a dictionary, and called it the Dictionary of the Fohkein Province, was spoken throughout that province, but we now know that the language of the city of Fuhchau, the provincial capital, is very different from that of Amoy. We know that the local languages of Ningpo and Shanghai, only a hundred miles apart, and between which two there has always been great intercourse, are very different. We know that the dialect as spoken at Kinkiang and Hankaw, two places only one hundred and fifty miles apart, on the Yangtsz river, are quite different. From this I infer that it will be found, as our acquaintance with Northern China extends, that the local language varies at different places. What then are you to infer from this multiplication of versions, local and general? Why, the first consideration is, that the more versions there are, the more readers there will be. 2d. The multiplications of versions here now is not attended with the same results that would attend the existence of different versions at home. There such a version represents a theological division and feud between the respective adherents, and they resort to their respective versions to sustain their respective tenets—as the Roman Catholic versions and the Protestant version, the immersion versions, etc., etc. But we missionaries are all united against idolatry, and we use the several versions as we think them best adapted to combat that enemy. The Southern rebels could not find any fault with Grant's or Sherman's legions because some were armed with Springfield made muskets, and some with the Minie rifles, and some with Spencer's repeaters, and so on. These various weapons were carrying death in their ranks, however some of the advocates of the several weapons might contend that this or that weapon was most destructive. It would have been lost time to have waited to settle that point before attacking the enemy. Nay, much better was it to supply each regiment well with some one or more of these weapons, and send them to attack vigorously the common enemy. So I hold—supply every labourer in China with any one or more than one of these various versions, and let them with whatever version they have all join in the common attack upon idolatry and sin. Let us not waste precious time in trying to settle abso-

lutely which is the best version, and insist that all shall use that version only. It is not likely that such a uniformity will ever be attained, or if ever, not till native scholars are prepared with a knowledge of the original languages of the sacred Scriptures. I think it is, however, attainable, that we should cease discussing so much the need of such a uniform version, and that we should unite more harmoniously and lovingly in making known the blessed Gospel of God, each using such a version as he prefers.

Some of the same remarks and principles apply to the discussion as to the use of terms for God and Spirit. It is to be regretted in some respects that such a different use of terms exists. But it did not matter whether our general and soldiers designated the Government of the United States by the use of the President, the Constitution, the Union, or by Old Abe, Uncle Abe, or Uncle Sam; when they assailed and carried their strongholds, and caused their armies to flee, their work was done, and their labours were effectual. While I greatly prefer the Chinese word Shin for God and gods, and Ling for Spirit, I have no doubt that many are truly led to Jesus who hear the Gospel where the other terms are used, and that the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God as preached by them to pull down the strongholds of sin and Satan. I do not mean any of these remarks to imply that the American Bible Society ought to depart from the principles on which their grants are made. My object is to dissipate an opinion which appears to be very common in the United States of America, that the use of different versions and terms is very disastrous to the progress of Christianity in China. It may be so, it will be so, if it leads to strife, and bickering, and jealousies; but I do not think it is necessarily so, or that it is nearly so much so as such a use would be in a Christian land.

Another point to be considered in reference to a revision of the sacred Scriptures is the cost of such a revision. Drs. Bridgman and Culbertson spent nearly *ten* years of their ripest scholarship in making the version now sanctioned by the American Bible Society. Dr. Bridgman had spent the previous *five* years in translating the New Testament, in connexion with Dr. Medhurst and others, before the withdrawal of the missionaries of the London Society. The version, as made by Dr. Medhurst and Messrs. Milne and Stronach, was eight years in preparation. There were other missionaries, as Dr. Legge and Bishop Boone, who gave more or less time to assisting in the work. These facts show that it is a matter of no small cost to revise the sacred Scriptures in Chinese, and that it should not be entered upon without a good prospect of beneficial results. This does not preclude the idea that the version of Drs. Bridgman and Culbertson might be improved by a little judicious editing and revising. One great object would be to abbreviate it some; for the sense is often obscured by the redundancy of words.

(Concluded in our next.)

THE FIRST BIBLE EVER PRINTED.—In the royal library of Berlin is a copy of the first Bible that was ever printed, a venerable and really magnificent book. It is printed on parchment, is about equal in size to the largest pulpit Bibles which are now printed, and is said to be the first book on which movable types were used.

POPERY versus PRINTING.

Rowland Phillips, the papistical Vicar of Croydon, in a noted sermon preached at St. Paul's Cross, London, in the year 1535, declared: "We must root out printing or printing will root us out!"

Domestic Department.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

LETTER FROM AN AGENT.

ORANGEBURG, S. C., Oct. 28, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER:—Believing that you and the readers of the Bible Society Record continue to feel an interest in every good work, permit me to state briefly what has been done by me as Bible Agent during the past *twelve* years of my life.

In the month of December, 1852, the Bible society of Charleston and the American Bible Society entered into an agreement for the purpose of sustaining a joint agency in South Carolina. Under this arrangement I was commissioned by the American Bible Society as Bible Agent for South Carolina to labour *three months* for the Bible Society of Charleston, in the city and district of Charleston, and *nine months* for the American Bible Society in the other districts of the State. This arrangement continued for *eight* years, until the commencement of the war. Soon after the opening of the war, "The Bible Society of the Confederate States" was organized under favourable auspices, in the city of Augusta, Georgia. Having been appointed by the board of managers as general agent of this society, I laboured for the society in the Confederate States during the war. This society did a great and a good work in the distribution of the Scriptures among the soldiers of the Confederate army. The board of managers published the Testament from their own stereotype plates, and also received their books from the British and Foreign Bible Society.

On the 1st of July, 1865, God, in his good providence, permitted me to be reappointed as Bible Agent for South Carolina, under the auspices of the American Bible Society. During the past four months a kind Providence has permitted me to prosecute my labours as Bible Agent, under favourable circumstances. Bible committees were appointed in various districts of the State, and addresses made at several Bible meetings. Donations of Bibles and Testaments were made to Bible societies, Bible committees, destitute Sabbath schools, and white and coloured persons; and letters of encouragement in my work, with letters requesting books for sale and for distribution, were received from prominent friends of the Bible cause in the State. Donations of Bibles and Testaments made to societies, committees, and individuals, about *five thousand* volumes.

As a great work is yet to be done in South Carolina, in the distribution of the Word of God among thousands in the State who have been made destitute by the war, it is hoped that the people of God will contribute liberally of their funds in aiding this holy Cause.

In reviewing the past years as Bible Agent, I have abundant reason to be thankful to the Father of mercies for his longsuffering and patience towards me, amidst the numerous imperfections that have marred my best and sincerest efforts to do

good. While much remains to be done in my field, may I be permitted to have your prayers and the prayers of the people of God, for the blessing of God upon my labours.

Wishing you and the American Bible Society every blessing, I remain, as ever,

Yours, fraternally,

E. A. BOLLES,

Agent American Bible Society for South Carolina.

TESTAMENTS TO FREEDMEN.

Though we are not in the general habit of inserting letters of thanks for grants of books, yet as great interest is felt in regard to the freedmen, it will be gratifying to many to know what the Society is doing for their benefit. We therefore insert the following as specimens:

OFFICE BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, &C.,
SAVANNAH, GA., Oct. 11, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER: It gives me much pleasure to acknowledge the reception of the boxes of Bibles and Testaments as per invoice. I shall aim to exercise care and discrimination in the distribution of these volumes, so as to accomplish the most possible good. I have an excellent opportunity in my present office to dispense these favours, which are to be, as I trust, great blessings to the coloured race.

Very truly, your brother,

L. M. BERGE,
Chaplain 173d N. Y. V.

HEADQUARTERS FREEDMEN'S BUREAU,
RALEIGH, N. C., Oct. 24, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I write to express my hearty thanks to your Society for your very liberal grant to me of one thousand Testaments, in coarse print, for gratuitous distribution among the freedmen. This will enable me to meet a very pressing want of theirs. I rejoice in being able, through your liberality, to shed the light of God's inspired Word upon their benighted minds.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F. A. FISKE,
Supt Ed. Freedmen's Bureau for N. C.

Children's Department.

For the Bible Society Record.

JUVENILE BIBLE COLLECTORS.

TO MY YOUNG FRIENDS AND THE FRIENDS OF THE BIBLE IN ILLINOIS.

Among other measures adopted to promote the Bible cause during this Jubilee year of the American Bible Society, we ask the *children* to act as collectors for the *special* objects of the Society while our ordinary operations are carried forward as usual. We furnish all children who collect and remit to me any sum a beautiful certificate, acknowledging the amount, and containing a splendid picture of the Bible House in New York. To those who collect certain sums, we give pocket Testaments or Bibles for their own use, so that they supply themselves with the Scriptures while aiding to supply others. I have already received from children one remittance of \$14 25, several of

\$10 each, and others of smaller amounts, and with one of them the following interesting letter enclosing \$6 50:

"LIGHT-HOUSE POINT, OGLE Co., Oct., 1865.

"MR. LORD—DEAR SIR:—We have been trying to work for the Bible cause, and have collected \$6 50, and Ma thinks we have done well. We are twin brothers, eight years old the 25th of last January. We go to school, and are trying to be good boys. We took the cards you so kindly sent our Pa, and almost every one we asked gave us something. Hoping this will reach you safely, we remain your little friends,

"LUCIUS L. NETTLETON,

"LUTHER M. NETTLETON."

If children who wish to act as collectors, or adults who will secure juvenile collectors, will write to me at Elgin, Ill., I will send them subscription cards, and also circulars explaining the objects and rewards. Or the cards can be prepared at home, and the certificates and other rewards will be sent on reception of the money.

A. LORD,
Agent American Bible Society.

ELGIN, ILL., October, 1865.

THE WORD OF GOD—Naimbanna, a black prince, from the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, arrived in England in 1791. The gentleman to whose care he was intrusted, took great pains to convince him that the Bible is the Word of God, and he received it as such, with great reverence and simplicity. Do we ask what it was that satisfied him on the subject? let us listen to his artless words: "When I found," said he, "all good men minding the Bible, and all bad men disregarding it, I then was sure that the Bible must be what good men called it, the Word of God."

The Bible.

This Book unfolds Jehovah's mind;
This Voice salutes in accents kind;
This Friend will all your need supply;
This Fountain sends forth streams of joy;
This Mine affords us boundless wealth;
This Good Physician gives us health;
This Sun renews and warms the soul;
This Sword both wounds and makes us whole;
This Letter shows our sins forgiven;
This Guide conducts us safe to heaven;
This Charter has been sealed with blood;
This Volume is the Word of God.

Bible Society Record.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1865.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Managers was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, on Thursday, the 30th of November (the first Thursday in December being appointed as a National Thanksgiving), at half-past 3, P. M.; William Whitlock, Jr., Esq., one of the Vice Presidents, in the chair, assisted by Norman White and Frederick S. Winston, Esqs., Vice Presidents.

The Rev. Dr. Goodell, from Constantinople, read

the 23d Psalm and a portion of the 19th, and offered prayer.

Four new auxiliaries were recognised: one in Kansas, two in Kentucky, and one in Michigan.

Communications were received from Agents in Mexico and the Argentine Confederation, showing encouraging success in their work; and interesting letters from Mr. Bliss, Rev. A. L. Long, and Rev. Dr. Riggs, of Constantinople, in regard to harmonizing the oriental versions; from Rev. Dr. Happer, Canton, on Chinese versions; and from the British and Foreign Bible Society, as to making duplicate plates of the Arabic Bible.

Grants of books were made to the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind; to the American Missionary Association; large numbers to Bible societies and committees at the South, at the request of Agents of the Parent Society, and under their supervision; for Central and South America, Liberia, and Syria, with eleven volumes for the Blind; making the entire number of volumes granted, 6,805, besides other grants to the value of \$2,800 more. The number of books granted is less than during the war, but they are more generally larger and more expensive, making far less difference in the value than the number would indicate.

On Thursday, the 7th inst., the stated meeting was held, according to the Constitution; but there not being a quorum present, and the regular business having been transacted, the meeting adjourned.

The receipts for November were \$47,782 99; the issues, 74,887 volumes.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

We desire to call the attention of Agents, Auxiliaries, and the friends of the Society generally, to our present financial condition. The necessary expenditures have considerably increased, owing to the resumption of our work in the Southern States, the increased prices of the manufacturing department, and the preparation of the Arabic Scriptures, while the receipts have fallen about \$50,000 below what they were this time last year.

THE JUBILEE SERMONS.

The second in the Series of Jubilee Sermons was preached by the Rev. Thomas E. Vermilye, D.D., in the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church, corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street, on Sunday evening, Nov. 26.

His subject was, "The purity of the Bible," the text being the 140th verse of the 119th Psalm: "Thy Word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." From this the doctor delivered a very able and exceedingly interesting discourse on the moral purity of the Bible, as an evidence of its Divine origin and character. It reflects the holiness of God; tends to promote holiness in man, individually, socially, naturally; is the basis of government and just laws; and, through purity

in life, it fits man for the realms of purity hereafter. The relation of Christ and the atonement, and the agency of the Holy Spirit, were dwelt on very happily. The topics were not presented in a commonplace and hackneyed manner, but with freshness of thought and beauty of illustration. The large and intelligent audience were evidently profoundly interested, and the attention was kept up to the end.

THE REV. LOT JONES, D. D.—MEMORIAL.

"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." Such is the Divine promise, and its fulfilment leads us to the future life. The God of the Bible has a book of remembrance, and its biographies of the good will be read forever. It is dutiful, too, that the record should be anticipated and begun in time, for "the memory of the just is blessed" by the good, while they are still on earth. The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society would therefore place on record their grateful memories of the Rev. Lot Jones, D. D., who has recently passed away from among them. Dr. Jones was a Christian man, of whom it might be appropriately said, "that he was full of the Holy Ghost and of faith." He had much of the mind of Christ, and showed it in his large affections, his amiable temper, his meek and quiet spirit, and his whole example of good works. As a minister of Christ, he was diligent, earnest, and successful. He lived beloved, and died lamented by multitudes surprised and distressed by his sad and sudden removal, in the midst of his usefulness. In his relations to the Bible work he was truly a man of business. He was thoroughly informed on all subjects connected with the place and labours of the American Bible Society and kindred institutions. He was a wise counsellor in her committees, punctual in his attendance on her assemblies, courteous in his intercourse with her officers, and earnest and trustful in supporting her largest plans for giving the Word of Life to our own country and the world. Dr. Jones was a member of the sub-committee of three, appointed by the Committee on Versions to revise the English Bible, and prepare the present Standard Bible of the Society; and he was not absent from a meeting of the committee during the time that laborious work was in progress. So, "diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord," "he walked with God, and was not; for God took him." His call to his gracious reward was sudden and unexpected. He seemed literally to step from the sanctuary below to the sanctuary above; and to be translated, almost without seeing death, as regards his immortal spirit, to heaven. While his associates of the Committee of Versions, and the members of the Board of Managers, would thus record their sense of his worth, they would also desire to be admonished by his sudden demise, and stimulated to follow his blessed example.

SUMMARY OF THE MONTHLY LABOURS OF THE AGENTS OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

During the month of October, reports were received from twenty-four of the Agents of this Society, and the following are the results of their labours: Auxiliaries visited, 165; Bible meetings attended, 202; Bible society anniversaries attended, 74; auxiliary or branch societies organized or revived, 76; number of sermons or addresses delivered, 249; number of letters and circulars sent out, 7,089; number of miles travelled, 15,317; amount of donations collected by the Agents, \$7,133 40; amount received by them from the sale of books, \$2,213 07; amount remitted by them to the Parent Society, \$10,970 34; amount paid by them into the treasuries of auxiliaries, \$255 45; amount of subscriptions obtained by them, but not yet paid, \$1,649 54; number of families visited in their fields, 19,012; number of destitute families found, 1,167; number of destitute families supplied, 646; number of destitute individuals supplied, 206; number of Sabbath and other schools supplied, 14, etc., etc.

REPORTS OF AGENTS.

REV. E. F. SIAFTER, the Agent in the *Protestant Episcopal churches*, reports having presented the claims of the Bible cause in Episcopal churches in Taunton, Plymouth, Cambridge, and Springfield, Mass., and in Bridgeport, Conn.; and says: "The collections this month have been larger than usual, and I feel greatly encouraged."

REV. M. W. STAPLES, of EASTERN NEW YORK, reports that the Schoharie County Bible Society is in a very flourishing condition, having doubled its former receipts during the past year, and adopted measures to establish branch societies in every township in its field, and to canvass and supply the county with the Scriptures as soon as practicable, by means of voluntary agencies. The Fulton County Bible Society, he states, is likewise in a good condition, and pledged to perform the same work during the present year. The Saratoga County Bible Society likewise has commenced in earnest the same work in its field, Mr. Burrill having already entered upon the labour of canvassing from house to house. "The proportion of those destitute of the Scriptures already found in the county," says Mr. Staples, "is truly alarming." From other portions of his field he sends us information of an equally encouraging character.

REV. GEORGE SHELDON, D.D., of NEW JERSEY and DELAWARE, says in relation to his field: "Overflowing anniversaries and growing revenues are certainly calculated to cheer our hearts as we prosecute this blessed work. Surely God is with our society of a truth." Over twenty-one hundred families were visited in his field by Bible distributors, during the month of October, and sixty of them were found destitute of the Scriptures, of which forty-three were supplied.

REV. T. H. MONROE, of WEST VIRGINIA, says: "Our Cause in this State advances slowly; but we have reason to believe that ultimately it will occupy a very high place in the hearts and the plans of the people."

REV. HENRY HARDIE, of NORTH CAROLINA, gives several very interesting instances of the eagerness with which freedmen in his field learn to read, and of the wonderful gratitude which they manifest upon receiving copies of the Holy Scriptures. "Thousands of them," he says, "will be able to read, and be asking for

the Word of God at our hands, before the expiration of a single year."

REV. E. A. BOLLES, of SOUTH CAROLINA, writes: "During the past month I have been very cordially received by many friends of the American Bible Society in this State; and my prayer is, that God may continue to bless and prosper us in our great and good work."

REV. JOHN HINTON, of MICHIGAN, writes: "In connexion with my other duties, I attended during the past month the Baptist State Convention and the New School Presbyterian Synod, of Michigan; and at each of these meetings I was received with great kindness, as the representative of the American Bible Society, and invited to present the claims of our Institution."

REV. AHIRA JOHNSON, of KANSAS, says: "You can scarcely conceive how large a portion of the auxiliaries, branch societies, and Bible committees in this State are in a condition of entire confusion, as the result of our late national difficulties."

REPORTS OF AUXILIARIES.

NEW YORK. *POUGHKEEPSIE FEMALE BIBLE SOCIETY* received into its treasury during the year just closed, \$537 47, all of which was paid over to the Parent Institution. The society has four industrial schools under its care, and through these and other agencies, it is accomplishing a noble work in its important field.

BROOKLYN BIBLE SOCIETY, L. I.—We are happy to see evidences of increasing activity in this society. The beautiful city of Brooklyn, the City of Churches, should take a prominent part in the Bible enterprise. We are glad to see that the Brooklyn Bible Society has addressed a strong appeal to the co-operating churches in behalf of this noble Cause, to which we wish them a most cordial and effective response.

NEW JERSEY. *MIDDLESEX COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY* reports its receipts for the year past at \$1,298 98; the amount of money still in its treasury, \$525 49; and the value of Bibles and Testaments in its depository, \$232 40.

OCEAN COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY held very interesting anniversary services at Tom's River, on the 25th of September. It is gratifying to be able to report that our Cause, under the management of this vigorous and faithful ally, is steadily on the advance. The society is contemplating a speedy re-exploration and supply of its field with the Scriptures. "Very much of the interest in the Bible cause in this county," writes the secretary of the society, "may clearly be traced to the personal efforts of the Rev. Dr. Sheldon, the Agent of the Parent Society for the State."

HUDSON COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY received into its treasury last year, \$1,340 02, which is \$335 67 in advance of its receipts during the year previous. At the anniversary in Jersey City, on the 1st of November, Rev. Wm. Adams, D.D., of New York, repeated, by request, his Jubilee sermon on the "Advantages of a Written Revelation." Interesting remarks were offered by the Rev. Dr. Sheldon, State Agent of the Parent Institution, at the meeting for the transaction of business.

OHIO. *HANCOCK COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY* reports its receipts for the last year at \$630 59. Of this amount, \$402 95 have been paid into the Parent Treasury, while the society retains a balance of \$227 64. The society has efficient branch organizations in all the townships in the bounds of its field; and it is about taking measures to visit and resupply all the households within its bounds with the Word of Life.

ILLINOIS. *DE KALB COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY* visited last year, through its distributors, 2,572 families in its field, and found only sixty of them without the Scriptures, all of which, with the exception of six, were sup-

plied either by sale or by donation. The receipts of this society for the year amounted to \$1,363 66. Rev. A. R. Mosher, the county agent, who has laboured on the society's ground, was very highly commended for the zeal and efficiency which he evinced in promoting its interests during the year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. WASHINGTON CITY BIBLE SOCIETY is vigorously engaged, at the present time, in canvassing and supplying its important field with the Scriptures. In exploring the fifth and sixth wards of the city, under the direction of this society, Rev. O. P. Pitcher has visited already over three thousand families, and found that 679 of them were living in destitution of the Word of Life. In those wards, Mr. P. found 193 establishments for selling intoxicating liquors, 107 of which were kept by Roman Catholics. Of the 140 families which refused to accept a copy of the Scriptures, 133 were of the same religious persuasion. In the prosecution of the work thus far, over 3,000 persons have been found in the city without the sacred Volume; and 1,700 adults who do not attend any place of worship!

NEVADA TERRITORY. STOREY COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY held its third annual meeting in the town of Virginia, on the 15th of October, and the following extract from the report which was then read, will show what is doing for the advancement of our work: "It is gratifying to us to know that our sales, during the year past, amounted to \$345 10; that the society has Bibles and Testaments still on hand in its several depositories, to the value of \$600; and that we have a balance in the treasury of \$43 49, without including our last night's collection, which amounted to \$200."

Reports of a gratifying character have likewise been received from the Bible societies of Green County and Benton County, Missouri; and from the Harrison County, the Lincoln County, the Garrard County, the Falmouth and Pendleton County, the Nicholasville and Jessamine County, the Millersburg and the Paris Bible Societies, in Kentucky; and the Wilmington Female Bible Society, Delaware.

Societies Recognised as Auxiliary,

During the month of November, 1865,

With name and Post Office address of Corresponding Secretary.

Gallatin Co. B. S., Ky., Wm. M. Simpson, Warsaw.
Hustonville B. S., " James M. Cook, Hustonville.
Jonesville B. S., M. ch., Witter J. Baxter, Jonesville.
Franklin Co. B. S., Kansas, Asa S. Lathrop, Ottawa.

Members Deceased during the Month.

Rev. Edward M. Dodd, Smyrna.
Rev. Robt. W. Wilson, Bloomingburgh, Ohio.
Cornelius C. Zabriskie, Paramus, N. J.
Mrs. Noah Levings, New York.
Peter Sutphen, Sweden, N. Y.
Alvin F. Frye, Brockport, N. Y.
William Crosby Stevens, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Rev. Asa Martin, Mahaska Co., Iowa.
Rev. S. M. Galt, Newark, Del.
Rev. John Gosman, D. D., Saugerties, N. Y.

MONEYS RECEIVED

BY THE TREASURER OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY,
During the month of November, 1865.

LIFE DIRECTOR.

C. S. Haines, Newark, N. J. (bal.)..... \$60 00

LIFE MEMBERS.

Mrs. Hannah G. Earl, Brooklyn, N. Y..... 30 00
Mrs. Wm. Rice, Worthington, Mass..... 30 00

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS.

C. V. S. Roosevelt, New York..... 1,000 00
Rev. S. A. Rhea, thank-offering for peace, Oroch-miah, Persia..... 5 00
"New Hampshire," N. H..... 10 00
G. S. Orcutt, Passaic, N. J..... 10 00
Mrs. Rebecca E. Wills, Newburyport, Mass.
(2 L. M.)..... 60 00
Cong. Sabbath School, Middlebury, Ct..... 5 00

Carried forward..... \$1,090 00 \$120 00

Brought forward.....	\$1,090 00	\$120 00
Mary A. Wildman, Brooklyn, N. Y. (L. M.)...	30 00	
Col. G. Loomis, U. S. A., Stratford, Ct.....	5 00	
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Ogdensburg, N. J. (bal. L. M.).....	20 00	
A Missionary, Philadelphia, Pa. (2 L. M.).....	60 00	
Willard King, Lunenburg, Vt. (L. M.).....	30 00	
C. M. R.....	20 00	
Mrs. H. H. Bronson, Hannibal, N. Y.....	5 00	
John A. Lewis, Philadelphia, Pa. (L. M.).....	30 00	
Mrs. Julia Wilcox, late of Bristol, Ct.....	10 00	
Lucius North, Jewett, N. Y. (L. M.).....	30 00	
Mrs. Emily Goslee, Jewett, N. Y.....	5 00	
M. H. Merriman, Rochester, N. Y.....	25 00	
Miss Elizabeth Reese, New Hamburg, N. Y. (L. M.).....	30 00	
"Amicus".....	20 00	
Jacob Harman, Independence, Ind.....	200 00	
Mrs. Minerva Gleason, Mesopotamia, O. (L. M.)	30 00	
A Friend to the Bible Cause, N. Y.....	10 00	
Rev. S. S. Harrison, Bloomingdale, Ill.....	25 00	
Mrs. Hannah Look, West Tisbury, Mass.....	10 00	
Professor Caswell, Providence, R. I.....	5 00	
Pres. S. S. Branch B. S., Mexico, N. Y.....	7 50	
Mrs. Lucy Childs, Niagara Falls, N. Y.....	7 00	
H. Rich, Ionia, Mich. (L. M.).....	30 00	
W. D. Arnold, Ionia, Mich.....	10 00	
John Reef, Olney, Ill.....	5 00	
Reuben Wager, Genoa, Ill.....	50 00	
D. W. Scott, Galena, Ill.....	30 00	
John Reed, deceased, Henderson Co., Ill.....	13 84	
Virgil A. Bogue, Polo, Ill.....	10 00	
W. A. Caldwell, Greensboro', N. C. (L. M.)...	30 00	
Z. B. Wakeman, late of Southport, Ct.....	2,500 00	
Miss A. Davidson, Newark, N. J.....	5 00	
Peter Ross, Wellsboro, Ohio.....	25 00	
Rev. J. T. Rhodes, Flatbush, N. Y.....	5 00	
Mrs. C. Noble, Elizabethtown, N. Y.....	8 00	
Miss Hannah J. Jones, New Concord, N. Y....	3 00	
A Friend, Wilkesbarre, Pa.....	3 00	
		4,432 34

CONGREGATIONAL COLLECTIONS.

Cong. Ch., Ashby, Mass.....	17 25
Pres. Ch., Clarence, N. Y.....	10 00
" " Perth Amboy, N. J.....	11 00
Cong. Ch., Franklin, Ct.....	15 00
Pres. Ch., Blissfield, Mich.....	14 43
M. E. Ch., Eatontown, N. J.....	5 35
Pres. Ch., Amity, N. Y.....	23 00
Ref. P. D. Ch., The Comforter, Wiltwyck, N. Y.	4 75
Cong. Ch., Cheshire, Ct.....	36 75
M. E. Ch., Holmes Hole, Mass.....	21 45
" " Mansfield Centre, Mass.....	11 70
Epis. Ch., Barrington, R. I.....	6 05
Cong. Ch., " " " " " " " " " " " "	42 50
Trinity M. E. Ch., Providence, R. I.....	8 08
Wisconsin Conf. M. E. Ch., Wis.....	81 85
N. W. Wisconsin Conf., Wis.....	30 30
M. E. Ch., Fairhaven, Ct.....	12 10
Cong. Ch., Wauregan, Ct.....	4 00
Lower Wabash Cong. of United Brethren, Ill..	3 75
N. W. German Conf. M. E. Ch., Ill.....	80 00
Iowa Conf. M. E. Ch., Iowa.....	72 70
First Cong. Ch., Portland, Chataqua Co., N. Y.....	14 73
M. E. Ch., Westfield, N. J.....	14 00
Union Ch. and Soc., Marlboro', Mass.....	25 00
Collection, Barkhamstead, Ct.....	5 60
Cong. Ch., Hardwick, Mass.....	35 45
First Pres. Ch., Warren, Ohio (L. M.).....	46 00
M. E. Ch., Cheshire, Ct.....	8 00
" " Tolland, " " " " " " " " " "	14 70
" " Seymour, " " " " " " " " " "	10 00
Cong. Ch., Westfield, " " " " " " " " " "	5 30
M. E. Ch., Brooklyn, N. Y.....	90 00
" " Rose, " " " " " " " " " "	15 71
	796 50

LEGACIES.

Mrs. Nancy Fay, late of Westboro', Mass.....	50 00
J. J. Lewis, late of Scottsville, N. Y.....	10 00
B. J. Blyth, late of Indianapolis, Ind.....	250 00
Matilda Fidler, late of Newtonville, Albany Co., N. Y.....	50 00
Ares Vanderbilt, late of Dutchess Co., N. Y....	600 00
Rev. Caleb Clark, late of Cortland Co., N. Y..	360 00
Col. Benj. and Mrs. Maria Talmadge, late of Litchfield Co., Ct.....	603 96
Hon. Allen Ayrault, late of Genesee, N. Y.....	660 00

Carried forward..... \$2,583 96 \$5,348 84

Brought forward.....	\$3,583 96	\$5,348 84	Brought forward.....	\$3,065 60	\$1,635 00	\$9,608 01
James Cox, late of Baltimore, Md.....	4 15		Canada Female B. S., Ct.....	131 00		
Theodosia Snow, late of Detroit, Mich.....	25 00		Dutchess Co. B. S., N. Y. (2 L. M.).	201 56	600 00	
		2,613 11	De Kalb Co. B. S., Ill.....		48 24	
FOR ARABIC SCRIPTURES.			Dutchess Co. Female B. S., N. Y.....	58 38		
Bible Committee, So. Coventry, Ct.....	30 00		Doddridge Co. B. S., W. Va.....	2 00		
Indiana Bible Asso. of Friends, Ind.....	150 00		Doniphan Co. B. S., Ks.....	4 20		
A Lady.....	5 00		Essex Co. B. S., N. J. (4 L. M.).....	792 58	120 00	
Mrs. Elizabeth Swan, New York.....	50 00		Fairfield Co. B. S., Ohio (4 L. M.)...	37 00	146 42	
Welsh Calvinistic Ch., Long Creek, Iowa....	30 00		Fosteria B. S., Ohio.....	184 00	50 00	
Cong. Sabbath School, Wauregan, Ct.....	6 00		Fayette Co. B. S., Ill.....	146 25	46 00	
Henderson Co. B. S., Ill.....	200 00		Female B. S., Caledonia, N. Y. (L. M.).....		99 75	
"From Little Elsie," a Thank-offering from parents for recovery of their child, N. J.....	20 00		Fulton Co. B. S., Ohio.....	52 59		
Members of Native Cha. near Sidon, by Rev. Mr. Eddy, Asia.....	117 60		Falmouth and Pendleton B. S., Ky.....	70 25		
		608 60	Fredonia B. S., N. Y.....	13 75		
FOR FREEDMEN.			Geneva B. S., N. Y. (L. M.).....		30 00	
A Friend, New York.....	4 00		Grundy Co. B. S., Ill.....		14 00	
Collection by Mrs. M.M. Edwards, E. Paw Paw, Ill.....	32 00		Greene Co. B. S., Mo.....	103 00	18 00	
Henderson Co. B. S., Ill.....	100 00		Green Lake Co. B. S., Wis.....	84 75		
		136 00	Hunterdon Co. B. S., N. J. (2 L. M.) ..	140 00	60 00	
FOR THE SOUTH.			Hocking Co. B. S., Ohio.....	119 00	100 00	
Mrs. Elizabeth Swan, New York.....	50 00		Holmes Co. B. S., Ohio (L. M.).....	31 50	50 00	
Pennsylvania B. S., Pa., for Bibles in St. Luke's Parish, Beaufort District, S. C.....	120 00		Hancock Co. B. S., Ohio.....		70 00	
		170 00	Huron Co. B. S., Ohio (L. M.).....	70 00	100 00	
FOR SPANISH SCRIPTURES.			Henderson Co. B. S., Ill.....		117 65	
Joseph H. Pedro, David's Island, N. Y.....	2 00		Hudson Co. B. S., N. J.....	500 00		
Henderson Co. B. S., Ill.....	60 00		Hillsdale Co. B. S., Mich.....	98 18		
		62 00	Howard Co. B. S., Iowa.....	59 59		
FOR JUBILEE.			Hardin Co. B. S., Iowa.....	17 00		
An Aged Widow, Newport, R. I.....	1 00		Highland Co. B. S., Ohio.....	127 81		
Children in Illinois, Ill.....	49 55		Harrison Co. B. S., Ky.....	72 50		
" " " ".....	14 30		Ionia Co. B. S., Mich.....	112 11		
First Pres. Ch., Sparta, N. Y.....	19 00		Jackson Co. B. S., W. Va. (L. M.)..	41 00	30 00	
Second " " " ".....	6 25		Jackson Co. B. S., Ks.....	41 46	30 35	
		90 10	Jonesville B. S., Mich.....	53 59		
FOR HEATHEN.			Jefferson Co. B. S., Ks.....	84 87		
Miss'y Soc German Evang., St. Peter's Ch., St. Louis, Mo.....	50 00		Kankakee Co. B. S., Ill.....	77 00	41 00	
Ladies' " " " ".....	14 00		Kossuth Co. B. S., Iowa.....		25 00	
Pennsylvania B. S., Pa.....	127 00		Kent Co. B. S., Mich.....	270 00		
		191 00	Kane Co. B. S., Ill.....	85 95		
RETURNS FOR BOOKS DONATED.			Kendall Co. B. S., Ill.....	108 67		
Rev. D. S. Faris, Sparta, Ill.....	3 65		Lewis Co. Welsh B. S., N. Y.....	48 81	51 19	
Rev. James Hickey, Monterey, Mexico.....	139 31		La Crosse Co. B. S., Wis.....		30 00	
Rev. W. F. Baird, Tenn.....	43 70		Lewis Co. B. S., W. Va.....	3 00		
		186 66	Louisville and Vic. B. S., Ky.....	47 00		
DONATIONS BY SOCIETIES NOT AUXILIARY.			Livingston Co. B. S., Mo.....	35 35		
Bible Committee, Hatfield, Ct.....	141 70		La Clede Co. B. S., Mo.....	4 70		
" " Edgartown, Mass. (2 L. M.)..	60 00		Massachusetts B. S., Mass. (2 L. D. & 2 L. M.).....	1,313 02	431 85	
		201 70	Middlesex Co. B. S., N. J.....		150 00	
REMITTANCES FROM AUXILIARIES.			Muskingum Co. B. S., Ohio (L. M.)..	45 00	30 00	
	Bibles.	Donations.	Milwaukee Co. B. S., Wis.....	24 45	10 00	
Allan Co. B. S., Ohio (L. M.).....	\$140 56	135 50	Macoupin Co. B. S., Ill.....	36 55	139 50	
Ashtabula Co. B. S., Ohio.....		17 00	Monroe Co. B. S., Ohio.....	64 72	5 00	
Allan Co. B. S., Ind.....	46 00		Miami Co. B. S., Ks.....	26 35	10 00	
Aroostook Co. B. S., Me.....	100 00		Minnesota B. S., Minn.....	219 05	5 00	
Alexander Co. B. S., Ill.....	92 20	60 00	Monmouth Co. B. S., N. J. (3 L. M.) ..	410 00	90 00	
Athens Co. B. S., Ohio.....	60 70		Marion Co. B. S., Mo.....	52 88		
Brooklyn City B. S., N. Y. (2 L. M.).....		60 00	Macomb Co. B. S., Mich.....	35 53		
Bellevue Female B. S., Ohio (L. M.).....	62 30	205 00	McHenry Co. B. S., Ill.....	9 50		
Buffalo City B. S., N. Y.....		200 00	Marion B. S., Iowa.....	23 20		
Bureau Co. B. S., Ill.....		160 00	Mahaska Co. B. S., Iowa.....	50 00		
Brown Co. B. S., Ks.....	20 00	13 00	Morgan Co. B. S., Ohio.....	201 55		
Bridgeport Bible Asso., Ct. (3 L. D. and L. M.).....		500 00	Monongalia Co. B. S., W. Va.....	69 20		
Branch Co. B. S., Mich.....	110 00		Millersburg B. S., Ky.....	8 00		
Bethel B. S., N. Y.....	202 59		Macon City B. S., Mo.....	11 20		
Brown Co. B. S., Wis.....	35 00		Mahoning Co. B. S., Ohio.....	110 00		
Brown Co. B. S., Ohio.....	62 18		Norwalk and Vic. B. S., Ct.....		100 00	
Cortland Co. B. S., N. Y.....		10 00	New York B. S. (3 L. D. & 13 L.M.)	3,420 87	873 05	
Cleveland B. S., Ohio.....	186 83	130 00	New Brunswick Young Men's B. S., N. J.....	19 71	200 00	
Caledonia B. S., N. Y. (4 L. M.).....		145 00	New Lexington B. S., Ohio (2 L. M.) ..	35 50	75 00	
Cass Co. B. S., Ill.....	100 00		New York Female B. S. (3 L. M.)...		90 00	
Cincinnati Y. M.'s B. S., Ohio.....	400 00		New Hampshire B. S., N. H.....	322 76		
Coles Co. B. S., Ill.....	60 00		New Castle and Henry Co. B. S., Ky.....	55 00		
Columbia Co. B. S., N. Y.....	36 00		Newport B. S., R. I.....	100 32		
Crawford Co. B. S., Ohio.....	66 40		Nicholasville & Jessamine Co. B. S., Ky.....	61 35		
Clinton Co. B. S., Mich.....	90 23		Ontario Co. B. S., N. Y.....		67 35	
Calhoun Co. B. S., Mich.....	12 17		Oneida Co. B. S., N. Y.....		27 41	
Clay Co. B. S., Ill.....	41 22		Onondaga Co. B. S., N. Y.....		100 68	
Clayton Co. B. S., Iowa.....	138 13		Oswego Co. B. S., N. Y.....		27 55	
Clermont Co. B. S., Ohio.....	3 00		Otsego Co. B. S., N. Y.....	200 00		
Chicago B. S., Ill.....	1,000 09		Perry Co. B. S., Ohio (L. M.).....	11 75	45 00	
Carried forward.....	\$3,065 60	\$1,635 00	Peoria Co. B. S., Ill.....	200 00	64 00	
		\$9,608 01	Preston Co. B. S., W. Va. (2 L. M.)..	19 68	60 00	
			Paris B. S., Ky. (3 L. M.).....	60 00	90 00	
			Carried forward.....	\$14,413 34	\$6,203 99	\$9,608 01

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